

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 3, 1891, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Twin Oaks, Sunday, May 3rd, 1891. My dear Alec:

I have just got two hundred dollars for your Association, don't you think it is doing pretty well? Your Father and Mother and mine have all become Life members. I enclose you the only sample of our engraved notification I have here. They only came Saturday. Dr. Gillett telegraphed Miss True after she had left to ask her to go to Jacksonville for the institute. Miss True wrote to me from Knoxville, she seems to have had a pretty good time there. From thence she was to go to Cave Springs. She wrote again on her way there, I have not heard since — not time.

Grace continues provokingly well, provokingly to the rest of us I mean. She is perfectly satisfied herself and in no hurry to change the status quo. She is as light and active as possible, plays tennis and croquet and challenges everyone to a race across the lawn. Major Powell and Professor Newcomb were here to dinner, just dropped in. Mamma says they both come quite often of a Sunday. There were seven of us at table and not one of us was perfect in every sense or member. There was Papa short-sighted and lame, Cousin Annie short-sighted, Prof. Newcomb ill and with his cane, Major Powell minus an arm, Uncle Theo. gouty and deaf and half blind, Mamma with her defective sight and I .

I worked hard all day yesterday over plans for our house on the point. I do wish so much to get that started, if we had that house built we could stay so much more comfortably late in the fall, 2 and I could come up in the spring with you for a few days. I almost wish I had gone with you, there are so many things I want done which can only be done in the spring.

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I want poultry started with some really good birds, layers and setters, turkeys and geese and ducks.

Daisy and I drove in to see your father and mother and staid to supper. Your father was in his favorite position on the sofa with his head where his feet should have been and his legs high up on the head of the sofa. He wore his usual linen wrapper and black alpaca cap and looked even more like Santa Claus than usual. He was very glad to see us. Then your mother and May came in. Your mother has not been very well lately, she caught cold and had diarrhea, and though better is feeling very weak. She was about however, and seemed bright. Aileen came in presently to get me to come and help her entertain Mr. Paris. She says she can't bear the man now, and indeed she was barely civil to him. I told him all about your sheep and the house-boat and made myself as generally agreeable as I could. He looks exactly as of yore, I don't see why this revulsion of feeling. Mr. McCurdy came in he said he had been working in the laboratory all day, he is trying to contrive a means of keeping the scrapings and diet from settling on the cylinder, he thinks the scrapings interfere seriously with the loudness and distinctness of the sound. He thinks he is improving the graphophone. Goodnight, when are you coming home, I am beginning to get homesick for you.

Ever yours, Mabel.